



McNary-John Day

500-kV Transmission Line Project

Bonneville Power Administration is committed to providing reliable power to the Northwest region. BPA is proposing to build new transmission infrastructure projects to improve the distribution of power to meet existing and future power needs. The McNary-John Day transmission project is one of several critical projects BPA has planned to solve power reliability problems in the Northwest.

Project Description

The McNary-John Day 500-kilowatt (kV) transmission line would be about 79 miles long and add about 1,400 to 2,300 megawatts of transfer capacity between Southeast Washington/Northeast Oregon to the west side of the Cascades. Existing lines in this area are at capacity and many new power plants are being proposed to help meet energy needs. The new line would provide additional capacity to help integrate new gas and wind energy generated in the area.

The new line would begin at the existing McNary Substation in Umatilla County, Oregon, cross the Columbia River into Washington, and generally follow the river west through Benton and Klickitat counties. At the John Day Dam, the proposed line would cross back into Oregon and connect into the John Day Substation in Sherman County.

The proposed line would, for its entire distance, parallel existing transmission lines that run between McNary and John Day Substations. Bonneville has existing right-of-way available next to those lines for most of the distance (see map on following page).

Working with the Community

The proposed line would cross mostly privately owned land, with easement on some tribal, federal and state lands. Land use along the right-of-way consists of grazing lands, agriculture, orchards and vineyards. Bonneville is working with landowners on siting to help lessen land use impacts. BPA is committed to working with public agencies, interest groups, tribes and private property owners to minimize construction impacts.

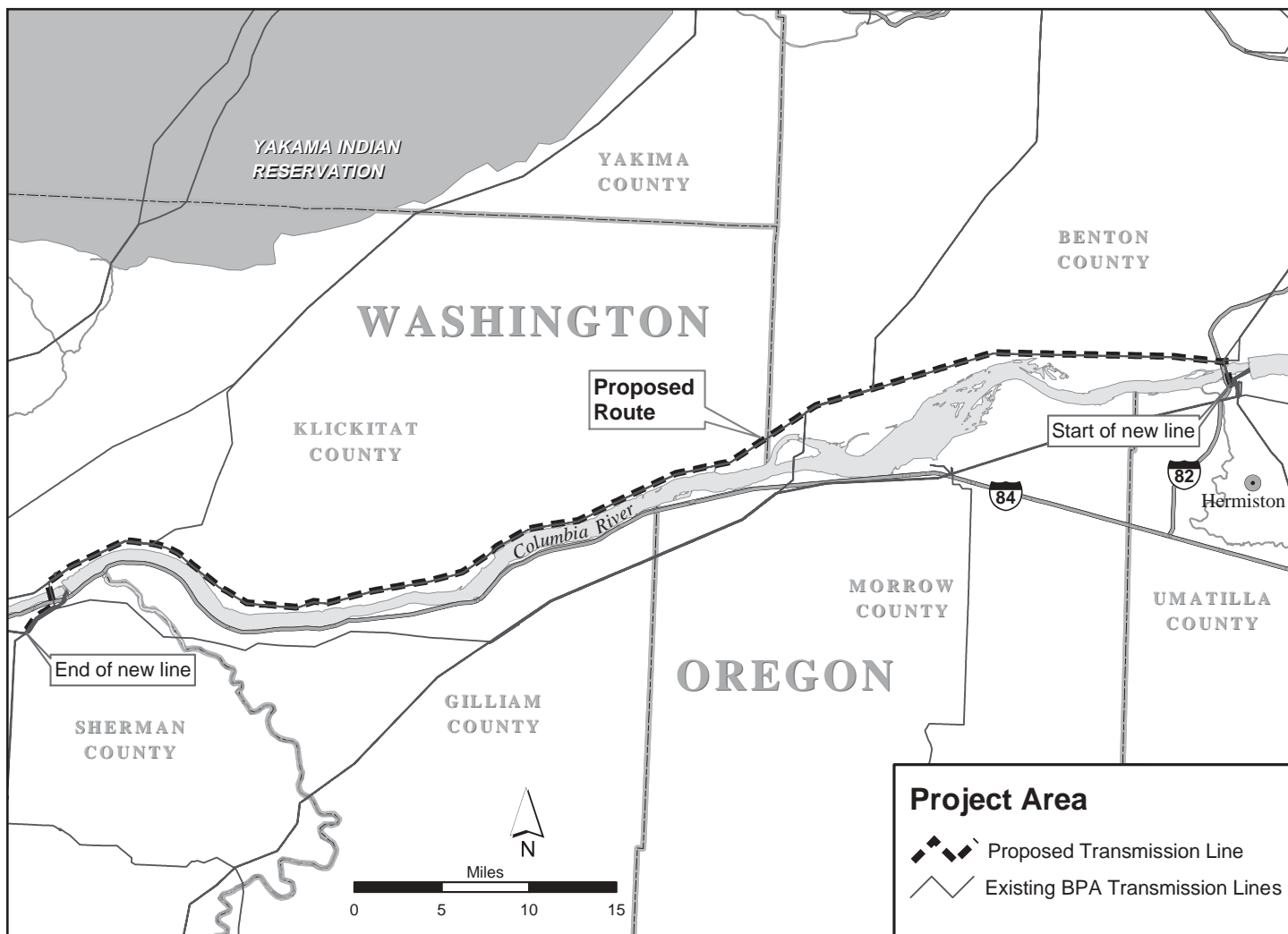
Environmental Planning

As BPA designs this project, special attention will be paid to minimize disruption to people, habitat and farm production. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being developed for this project to look at alignment alternatives and mitigation issues. The EIS focuses on protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural environment and requesting public input on project alternatives. Some of the key project milestones are listed below:

- **Scoping.** BPA identified possible issues and concerns on the project by conducting public meetings and meeting with state and federal agencies and concerned tribes in May 2001.
- **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** The draft EIS was released for public review and comment in February 2002. BPA held three public meetings to receive comment on the draft EIS in April 2002.

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This map shows the proposed route for a new 500-kV transmission line.

- **Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** The final EIS, scheduled for release in summer 2002, will respond to public comments on the draft EIS and will be modified as necessary.
- **Decision.** Based on the environmental studies, additional technical analysis and public input, BPA's administrator will decide how to proceed on the project in fall 2002. The decision will be recorded in a record of decision, which will be made available to the public in fall 2002.

Funding and Schedule

Environmental review and preliminary design work is being paid for by private power plant sponsors. If BPA builds the new line, construction would start in spring 2003 and the line would be energized fall 2004.

Questions or Comments

If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please contact BPA Project Manager Gary Beck toll free at 1-888-276-7790 or visit BPA's Web site at www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects, select Infrastructure and scroll down to the McNary-John Day Project. If you have real estate or easement questions or would like BPA to meet with you on site, please call Monica Stafflund (509) 527-6304.

